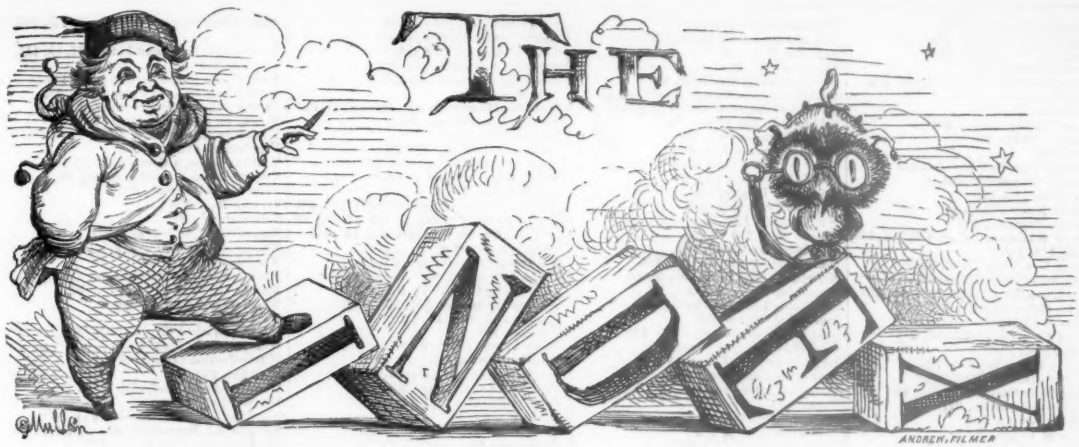

Abraham Lincoln (To), 255
Acknowledgment at Last (An), 205
Adornment, 215
Advice from Pittsburg, 270
Advice to a Fool, 275
Æsop Nowhere, 215
Æsthetics of Boots (The), 299
Alarming Reduction, 65
Aldermanity, 264
Almost we forgive the World, 170
Always on the Go, 292
Amorphous (The), 282
Anecdotes of the Prince, 253
Another Grand Reception, 46
Another Introduction by Lord Brougham, 108
Another Shot Round the Corner, 216
Anything with Wool on It, 263
Aquarian, 301
Arlington Tournament (The), 101
Artemus Ward Visits Brigham Young, 231
" " On Forts, 243
" " Visits Abe Lincoln, 279
" " On Forrest's Othello, 291
Assault on a Fresh, 187
At it Again, 119, 125
Authentic Account of Hicks (The), 134
Authoress of Rutledge, 127
Autographic, 120
Awful Results, 269
Awful—Is it now, 288
Ballad About De Rowties (A), 121
Ballad of Captain Hicks (The), 133
Barnum (To), 306
Before the Grave of Washington, 200
Bennett on Poetry, 230
Best way to Serve Him (The), 64
Bibliography, 171
Bigots of Bergen (The), 122
Billy or Not Billy, 139
Boston on Books, 245
Boston Again, 276
Boston and its Pictures, 288
Bottle Imp (A), 145
Buchanan Writes for It, 207
Black Leopard (The), 21
Bliss, Indeed, 218
Brief Biographies, 222
Brown-Stone What-Is-It (The), 284
Brown-Stone What Is-It again (The), 314
CARTOONS.
Harmony at the Convention, 7
Serene Above Them All, 19
The Burglar's Carnival, 31
The Modern Pyramus and Thisbe, 43
The Modern Brutus, 55
Foot-Ball in Europe, 67
All Right, 79
John Bull's Old Nightmare, 91
Settling Vexation by Annexation, 105
Three to One You Don't Get It, 117
Keeping Queer Company, 129
In a Muddle, 141
Aminidab Sleek at Jones's Wood, 153
Scan. Mag. at Washington, 165
The Reception at Washington, 177
Seward's Grand Starring Tour, 189
What Will He Do With It, 201
Sich a Gittin up Stairs, 213
Wonderful Surgical Operation, 225
A Hint to Office Holders, 237
Coming Round, 249
To-Day, 261
Bothered, 273
Brother Jonathan Lame, 285
Dogberry's Last Charge, 297
Christmas Among the Cavaliers in the Early Days of Virginia, 308, 309
Badgering Him, 321
Case of Francisco Casanova (The), 94
Case of Real Distress (A), 114
Case of W. Mulligan (The), 244
Case of Color Blindness (A), 291
Central Park (The), 136
City Fathers of All Evil (The), 282
Comic Murder (The), 59
Comparative Bores, 299
Confidential Communication (A), 71
Conventional Joke (A), 5
Cosmopolites, Attention, 127
Country Editor's Campaign Punster (The), 204
Cow on the Track (A), 163
Curious Freak of Nature, 24
Curiosities of Natural History, 255
Chapeau Bas, 211
Chase of the Bounding Rustic (The), 42
Choice Bit for Exeter Hall (A), 108
Christmas Cheer, 306
Chronicles of Mannahatta (The), 218
Church Militant (The), 119
Clerical Detective (A), 254
Crack at Some Folks (A), 30
Criticisms on the Elder Poets, 325
Crow for the Country (A), 54
Cryptographic Romance (A), 293
D and the D, 172
Dead March (The), 164
Decadence of "Blood" (The), 95
December, 323
Deficiency Supplied (A), 29
Delicacies of the Season, 187
De Mortuis, 167
Destroy Vermin (To), 269
Deuced Good Joke (A), 113
Diablerie vs. Philosophers, 215
Diary of a Tobacco Smoker, 256
Did He, though, 102
Did You Ever, 124
D'Israeli and Jobson, 137
Dog Days, 110
Dr. Cahill's Last, 277
Drawing it Mild, 221
Drill for Dinners, 255
Drug Literature, 179
D'ye mind me, ye Divils, 199
Equine Gymnastics, 15
Explanation (The), 227
Extraordinary, 259
Farmers' Attention! 110, 173
Fancy Dying, 63
Fancy Stocks, 72
Feathered Spray, 132
Ferocious, 127
Fine Young English Gentleman (The), 107
Fine Young Cuban Gentleman (The), 170
Fine Arts (The), 268
Fourth in Town (The), 18
Fresh Fiends and Tortures New, 246
Frightful Astuteness of Our Police, 164
From Our Beautiful Contributor, 224
From the Oil Land, 302
Garibaldi, 25, 199
Garibaldi as an Indian, 146
General Intelligence, 119
Gerard, 227
Germantown Graphics, 12
Girls or Bolsters, 169
Glory and the Shame of Shine (The), 82
Good Thing for Bonner (A), 29
Go in Lemons, 255
Got the Sack, 278
Grantley Berkeley Dished, 207
Gratis Principle (The), 287
Great Eastern (The), 16, 47
Great Moral Exhibition, 264
Grim Ferry Man (The), 244
Have you ever a Bone amongst you, 248
Happy Thought (A), 113
Happy Removal (A), 278
Haul of the Net (The), 64
Heads and Tails, 186
Help me Cassius, 5
Heraldry and Knighthood, 174
Here and There, 22
He Should be an Actor, 45
Hints for Natural History, 277
Ho! for Paris, 114
Homes Worked by Steam, 144
Hope for the World, 194
Howes my Boy, 246
How we mean to do it, 48
How the Belles ring it in, 64
How very Funny, 109
How they bother us, 193
How he would, 206
Hour of Sorrow (The), 255
Human Nature, 256
Hurrah Boys, 241
Imperial Game, 66
Important Discovery, 5
Important Dogs, 172
Inconsistent Already, 47
Independent Independent (The), 156
Indigenous Jocularity, 39
Innocent Lambs, 199
In Re Recorder, 162
Interesting to Coroners, 188
In the Wrong Stage, Sir, 258
Irish News, 229
Japanese Ball (The), 6
J. B., 252
Jenkins on the New Hippodrome, 290
Jersey on Barnum, 210
John Hardy's Christmas Eve, 303, 315
Judy O'Brien's Protest, 84
Keep this Shady, 223
Kind Word (A), 269
King of Manhattan Island (The), 324
King Herod in New York, 104
Lady Readers (To), 281
Ladies Attention! 161
Lamming Lamartine, 233
Language Without a Master, 203
Last of the Japanese (The), 114
Last Fashion (The), 223
Lay of the Common Scoundrel (The), 182
Lay of a Lover (The), 216
Laye of Ye Bruttale Bookbindere, 228
Ledger Demain, 242
Letter from the Hermit (A), 17, 167
Letters about the Prince's Ball, 208
Letters to Gen. Charles W. Sanford, 223
Life on the Road, 234
Literary Reminiscence (A), 186
Literary and Other Gems, 295
Little Bibbs, 40
Little More Cider (A), 59
Lo Here! the Gentle Lark, 271
Lone Star of the Palmetto Flag (The) 272
Lord Brougham in a New Light, 77
Machinery, 204, 243
Marriage and Architecture 71
Marine Intelligence, 234
Matrimonial, 257
Measure for Measure, 232
Medical Intelligence, 300
Members of Congress (To) 325
Meriam's Address to the Meteor, 65
Mermaid of All Work (A), 265
Messrs. Hammett & Co., 36
Meteorrible, 72
Mighty Moral, 115
Mild and Etherial Sentence (A), 198
Mind Your Eyes, 58
Mirabile, 250
Missile from the Original Jenks (A), 161
Modern Witchcraft, 150
Moral for the Immoral (A), 21
More British Fair Play, 88
More Bowery French, 264
More Martyrdom, 12
Mount Vernonest 181
Musical Criticism, 175
Mutton Baths, 217
Natural History, The Hotel Waiter, 12
" " The Man About Town, 45
" " The Sponge, 277
Native Dante (A), 258
New Ballad of the Great Eastern (A), 78
New Books Received, 296
New Feature in the Home Journal (A), 101
New King of Yvetot (The), 139
New Motive Power, (A), 143
New Song of a Belle (A), 88
New Thing in Bodies (A), 242
New Year (The), 323
Nice and Cool, 102
Nice Mercantile Question (A), 173
Noble Savage (The), 245
None of That, You Know, 115
No You Don't, 245
Northampton Bastile (The) 176
No Sign, 281
Notable Fact (A), 246
Nothing Like Experience, 211
Novel Weapon of Offence, 16
Now for Billiards, 194
Nut for Spinsters to Crack (A), 113
Our Chess Column, 235
Our College Department, 187, 206, 210, 224, 239, 247, 266
Our Dutch Friend's Opinion, 211
Our Eldest, 243
Our Engineering Contributor, 289, 292
Our Friend Around the Corner (To), 186
Our Frog Pond Correspondent, 258
Our Great Contributor, 211
Our Harp Discounted, 219
Our Instinct Still at the Top, 215
Our Last Great Romance, 219
Our Offer to the Prince, 116
Our Poet's Corner, 131
Our Social Scale, 236
Our True Bond of Union, 300
Our Washington Correspondence, 251
Our Wimbledon Correspondence, 72
Out Again, 211
On the Great Wide-Awake Procession, 192
Open Sesame, 244
Ornithology, 198
Other Side of the Picture (The), 40
Paddy's Ode to the Prince, 126
Page from the History of the Baltimore Convention (A), 9
Parachenille (The), 11
Paragraph in Slippers (A), 300
Paterfamilias to the Pump, 292
Peoria and Pike outdone, 179
Perennial Jokes, 158
Personal, 66
Peter Piper, 192
Peter Stuyvesant's New Year's Call, 320

Pity the Sorrows, &c., 122
Plaint of a Countryman (The), 96
Pleasant and Profitable, 75
Police Intelligence, 230
Politico-Commercial Crisis (The), 194
P. O. Pother (The), 90
Poor Boston, 11
Pope and Sultan (The), 236
Portlande's Follie, 93
Powder, 235
Preaching from the Shoulder, 219
PREFACE to Volume Second, 1
Pretty Critic (A), 156
Prince of Wales (The), 41
Prince vs. Pugilists, 108
Prince of Walesiana (The), 132, 138, 155, 162, 174, 198
Prince in New York (The), 208
Prince's Ball (The), 183, 195
Private Libraries of New York, 69, 155
Prizes for Subscriptions, 41
Progress of Civilization, 77
Proposed Embargo on Cotton, 283
Pugilistic Piety, 191
Pugilist to a Prophet (A), 224
Pulpit Polichinellos (To), 276
Punning Made Easy, 28, 52, 70, 120
Purely Pre-Raphaelite, 221
Puss in Boots (A), 278
Question of Usage, 319
Question for Sophists (A), 113
Quincunx (A), 193
Real Horrors of the Great Eastern (The), 107
Real Thing (The), 192
Remarkable Case, 212
Remonstrance (A), 15
Renfrew Procession (The), 290
Republican Allegory (A), 299
Result (The), 21
Resuscitation of Hicks (The), 134
Revelations of Zulowski (The), 319
Romance and Religion of Billiards, 194
Sabbatarian Grammar, 48
Saul among the Prophets, 287
Save the Pieces, 239
Secession (A), 9
See the Conquering Hero, 29
Sentiments of a Hanger On (The), 60
Sermon to Organ Grinders (A), 53
Siddons and the Prince, 193
Signal Triumph (A), 218
Significance in a Pot, 280
Silver Anchor (The), 254
Simple Catechism (A), 27
Single and Double, 311
Singular Craft (A), 152
Si Sic Omnes, 128
So Ho! Don, 289
Something Gorgeous, 146
Something New in Virtues, 169
Something New in the World, 60
Something Like a Chance, 175
Something Like Christmas, 312
Something Serious, 191
Song of the Barbacue (The), 168
Song of the Beggar (The), 87
Song of the Rats (The), 81
Song of the Revolver, 288
Sound Logic, My Masters, 278
Sound on the Goose, 108
Southern Poet (A), 289
Suez Canal (The), 162
Suggestion for It (A), 229
Sursum Recorder, 2 2
School Vampyre (The), 275
Shout that all may Hear, 295
Small Dog and His Man (The), 17
Smart Paper (A), 128
Specimen of a Debate in Congress, 292
Special Despatches, 295
Spectacular Entomology, 299
Spherical Virtue, 192
Spirit of the Times (The), 151
Splendid Chance for H. R. H. (A), 75
Sporting Intelligence, 301
Spuytentuyfel Abroad, 240
Squib from a Soph. (A), 206
State of Europe (The), 26
Statement of Facts (A), 206
Stave for a Cooper (A), 218
Stop Him, 167
Story that Carries its own Lesson (A), 193
Strange Coincidence, 207
Stumper (A), 263
Stupendous Enterprise, 180
Stupendous Extravagance, 227
Stupendous Prosperity, 134
Tall Writing, 234
Tearful Results of the Election (The), 248
Telegraph Tour (The), 3, 13, 33, 37, 49 61, 73, 85, 99, 111, 123, 135, 147, 159
Telegramisery, 259
Testificatory Literature, 51
Tiddy iddy tol lol, 83
Tight Little Island (A), 137
Tip-Top Institution "A", 290
Tommy and the Times, 10
Too Bad, 234
Torch Bearer (The), 23
Touching Inskip, 125
Touchstone in the Tabernacle, 157
That Spoke the Vacant Mind, 113
This Complexion (To), 199
Those Worms, 17
Those Little Bills, 53
Thouvenel, 45
Thunder and Lightning, 27
Thy Hand, Great Man, &c., 295
Two Spirits (The), 149
Ultimate Destiny of the Wide Awakes (The), 263
Ul-tre-montani, 236
Uncle Sam's Christmas, 325
Unexpected Visitor (An), 57
Unlimited Suspension, 81
Up to the Time of Day, 234
Usual English Growl (The), 26
Vanity Fair "Wee Folks," 14, 122
Vanity Fair Correspondence, 76, 143, 152, 174
Vanity Fair European Letter, 77, 89, 115, 203, 244
Vanity Fair to the British Lion, 140
Vanity Fair to Lord Palmerston, 252
Vanity Among the Prophets, 212
Vanity on Aminadab Sleek, 267
Vanity on the Message, 293
Vegetarians (The), 172
Venitian Moor, a Comedy (The), 168
Very Common Councilman (A), 191
Very Attractive Sale, 252
Vive Le Roi! 266
Vive Rarey! 326
War of the Creeds (The), 301
War in Italy (The), 255, 271, 281, 313
Ward-Room-Wind, 295
Watts on the Administration, 275
Way of the World (The), 11, 199
Wegetarian Song (A), 138
Weiss-Bier, 258
Wicked, Wicked World (Oh), 65
Wide Awakes (The), 168
Wife's Portion (The), 104
With Ice, 280
World's Latest Kink (The), 162
World "The", 58
Word for the Great Eastern (A), 76
Word in Mr. Raymond's Ear (A), 119
Word for the Women (A), 242
What'll we do with Him, 36
What we have in Store, &c., 46
What Was It, (A), 253
What Is It, 277
Whereabouts of Fowler (The), 35
Whereabouts and Whatabouts, 104
Whitbeck on the Half-Shell, 235
Whole-Souled Jerseyman, (The), 30
Ye Mocke Auctionere, 54
Yes, or No, 188
You can't Spring that on Us, 234
Zany of the House of Peers (The), 82

XUM

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VANITY FAIR, on the 27th day of June, 1860, entered his second *Salon*, in which a number of visitors had assembled to greet him on the attainment of the majority of his Second Volume.

V. F. had been informed by his gentleman's gentleman—a stupendous creature who left his last place because he got Sherry at dinner instead of Madeira, to which latter he had always been accustomed—that a select party of distinguished persons awaited him below stairs in order to congratulate him upon his arrival at man's estate. He instantly dropped his Narghileh, arose from his Indian summer chair, and attired himself in a simple but elegant morning costume. This done, he descended, and found awaiting him with respectful homage, the following persons: Mrs. PUBLIC, with her eldest son, CHER LECTEUR, Alderman BOOLE, Prince SIMMI BOOJSEN NO KAMI, HORACE GREELEY, Hon. H. J. RAYMOND, Col. WEBB, the Editor of the *Saturday Press*, the Editor of the *World*, Mr. AUGUSTUS BELMONT, Count DE GUROWSKI, MORTIMER DOESTICKS, besides a corps of lovely and exquisitely dressed contributors, all of whom carried bouquets in their hands, composed of the choicest exotics of the four seasons.

V. F. floated into—or, we may say, amalgamated with—the select circle of guests that awaited him; and—but as conversation can never be perfectly given in narrative, let us present this charming scene in a dramatic form:

SCENE.—The Residence of V. F.

An exquisite drawing room hung in blue and silver. Four paintings, hang on the walls. They are from the pencil of GREUZE, *and are types of women in the four quarters of the globe. The guests, seated on causeuses, or in easy chairs more luxurious than the sybarite's bed of roses, are conversing on the topics of the day. Several specimens of the "What Is It?" attired in bangles and paramatta trowsers, with rings in their noses, are serving ices and sherry cobblers on trays of beaten gold, which* TIFFANY *could not beat, each supernatural drink being furnished with ethereal straws for purposes of imbibition. Other slaves cool the summer atmosphere with waving punkahs formed out of the feathers of the Bird of Paradise.* V. F. *appears in the midst. The conversation remains uninterrupted.* V. F. *with a magnetic inclination of the body signifies his welcome and sinks into a mechanical easy chair which, when occupied, puts in motion a machinery that waves scented fans about the head of the occupant.*

Horace Greeley. [*To Raymond*] I think I rather got the best of you about that SEWARD letter.

H. Raymond. Pooh! You do not understand the first principles of controversy. You defend yourself. A controversialist should attack. Dismiss your antagonist's assertions in a paragraph, and abuse him in a column. Those are my tactics.

H. G. [*Satirically.*] Were they your tactics at Solferino?

H. R. [*Confused.*] You wander from the subject.

V. F. [*Suddenly.*] Why is Mr. GREELEY like a slave ship? [*Sensation, amid which all give it up.*

Because he is a Wanderer. [*Immense applause.*

Mrs. Public. [*Aside to V. F.*] Ingenious as ever, dear V. F. How dexterously you turned off that delicate subject!

Alderman Boole. Here! Waiter, bring me something to drink. [*To Prince Simmi Boojsen.*] Have a tod, Prince?

Prince Simmi. [*Declines, but as we have no Japanese type we forbear printing the formula of his reply.*]

Editor of Saturday Press. When the Alderman's drink is poured out, why is it equivalent to taking it upside down?

V. F. [*Without a moment's consideration.*] Because it's BOOLE versez.

Editor of Saturday Press. [*Taking his hat.*] Good morning. [*Exit.*

Alderman B. [*Who doesn't understand French.*] Ha! ha! very good.

Editor of the World. I think the jest profane. Such trivial topics are beneath the consideration of the enlightened. There is but one subject which it is necessary that we should consider. The great religious revival which commenced one hundred and fifty years hence—since, I mean.

Mrs. Public. [*Blandly interrupting.*] Bless me, don't talk of such antique periods. You remind me of my age.

Count Gurowski. [*In his well-known silvery accents.*] You Mr. *World* Editor! vat you know about religion? You know nothing. You have nevare been at colleges. You do not vash your hands. There is no gentlemens in this coundhry. There is but von question vich agitates the globe. It is the question of Pan-Sclavism. You are von fool—gr-r-r-r-r-r-r-r. [*These consonants represent the silvery accents.*

Editor of World. [*Meekly.*] I must not let my angry passions rise
If I would win my mansion in the skies.

H. G. [*To Raymond.*] What are your opinions about Lincoln?

H. R. I have no opinions. Haven't had any for a long time.

H. G. Why?

H. R. Oh, opinions are out at elbows.

H. G. [*Maliciously.*] Out at the elbows of the Mincio?

H. R. [*Sulkily.*] Well, I suppose it's no use Minc (io)ing the matter; yes.

Alderman B. Let's take something to drink. Have a tod, Prince? [*For Prince's reply see his previous answer.*

Doesticks. I'll join you in a glass of beer. I remember having some at Niagara, and liking it. [*Doesticks is served, and demands another to take the taste out his mouth.*

Aug. Belmont. [*Magnificently.*] Bring me a bottle of Metternich's Blue Seal. [*Belmont is served, and gives a thousand dollar bill to the attendant "What is it?" who executes the dance of joy.*

Alderman B. Have a tod, Prince? [*For Prince's rejoinder, vide former colloquies.*

Mrs. Public. [*Rising.*] My friends, we have assembled here to-day for a delightful purpose: that of congratulating VANITY FAIR on the attainment of his majority, and the admirable manner in which he conducted himself while he was a youth. [*Cries of hear, hear.*] He has been, at the same time, bold and judicious. His course has been marked by scholastic attainment, salient wit, and manly pluck. He has proved himself to be the embodiment of that agile and elastic American mind which invented the steamship—emancipated the plough—conquered at Cerro Gordo and Chapultepec—annihilated distance with the telegraph—and, later still, laid bare the teeming mysteries of Japan! [*Immense cheering. Alderman Boole is so overcome that he solicits what he calls "a tod."*

My friends, I greeted this young Hercules of satire in his cradle, and when I saw him strangling the serpents of public wrong, predicted his future. He is now strong enough for even the Nemean Lion of Public Abuses, and ere long you will see its skin upon his shoulders! [*Enormous and terrific "tiger."*

Cher Lecteur. Bravo, mamma! Pon honaw you are quite eloquent, aw!

Mrs. Public. My friends, I propose long life and prosperity to VANITY FAIR! [*The skies are rent.*

V. F. [*Bowing slighly.*] Much obliged. Luncheon in other room. Come and try it.

[*More applause than ever, in which the voice of* BOOLE *is much heard. The party form a grand procession to luncheon, singing a hymn in praise of* V. F., *composed by* RICHARD STORRS WILLIS. *A velvet curtain at the end of the chief corridor is lifted, disclosing a banquet, to describe the splendors of which the ink refuses to flow. All seat themselves.* GUROWSKI *attacks the prog. He glares at* DOESTICKS, *who continues to drink beer.* BOOLE *becomes bacchic, and the curtain falls on a grand tableau of festivity.*